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**TESTIMONY RE: TESTIMONY RE: Raised Bill No. 6498 AN ACT CONCERNING CADMIUM LEVELS
IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY**

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

March 5, 2013

Good Afternoon, Co-Chairs, Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and esteemed members of the Select Committee on Children. I want to thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), as a founding partner of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association and professor emeritus from Central Connecticut State University. I am also a founding member of the National Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments and currently serve on the Steering Committee.

I speak in strong support: **Raised Bill No. 6498 AN ACT CONCERNING CADMIUM LEVELS IN
CHILDREN'S JEWELRY**

We don't know what the triggers are to the incidence of disease onset. However, we are beginning to develop a strong body of scientific knowledge that establishes cause and effect. However until we have multiple well- grounded research studies, we need to apply the Precautionary Principle which states "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically." In this context the proponent of the activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of the proof. The process of applying the precautionary principle must be open, informed and democratic and must include

potentially affected parties. It must involve an examination of a full range of alternatives, including no action.”(Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle, Jan. 1998).

Ingestion of any significant amount of cadmium causes immediate poisoning and damage to the liver and the kidneys. Compounds containing cadmium are also carcinogenic.

The bones become soft, lose density and become weaker. This causes the pain in the joints and the back, and also increases the risk of fractures. In extreme cases of cadmium poisoning, mere body weight causes a fracture. The kidneys lose their function to remove acids from the blood in proximal renal tubular dysfunction. The kidney damage inflicted by cadmium poisoning is irreversible.

In February 2010, cadmium was found in an entire line of Wal-Mart exclusive Miley Cyrus jewelry. The charms were tested at the behest of the Associated Press and were found to contain high levels of cadmium. Wal-Mart did not stop selling the jewelry until May 12 because "it would be too difficult to test products already on its shelves." On June 4 Cadmium was detected in the paint used on promotional drinking glasses for the movie Shrek Forever After, sold by Mc Donald's Restaurants, triggering a recall of 12 million glasses. (Wikipedia)

Cadmium is extremely dangerous and may be lethal. We strongly urge the committee to support **Raised Bill No: Raised Bill No. 6498 AN ACT CONCERNING CADMIUM LEVELS IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY**

Thank you

Mary Jane M. Williams PhD., RN